

gathering in camps like refugees without water, food, or adequate shelter—media coverage began to expose the dirty secret of America's working poor. Out of the 5.8 million people from the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama who were directly affected by this devastation, more than one million—nearly one-fifth of those affected—lived in poverty. These atrocities shined the light on poverty in America. People could not ignore it. Indeed, the events made Americans question, "how is it that so many people, most of them children, are living below the poverty line in the wealthiest country in the world?"

Upon visiting New Orleans after the Hurricanes, President Bush declared that the nation had a solemn duty to help the poor. But the issue of America's poor was brief in the presidential limelight. Despite the clarity of the problem of poverty that the disasters brought, poverty fails to be a priority for this administration. The war in Iraq is the top priority for this administration, draining the country's resources and taking precedent over the pressing domestic issue of abject poverty in America. Tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, not healthcare and living wages for those who are struggling to make it. Significant cuts to our social safety nets of Medicare and Medicaid. Failure to raise the minimum wage. Time after time, this Administration has promoted legislation that disenfranchises the working poor. The administration had an opportunity to address poverty, and it has shown a complete lack of leadership to do so. Poverty is not a priority for this administration.

As Members of Congress, we share the responsibility with the executive branch of government to put poverty back on the agenda, to create and fund programs that can help America's forgotten poor. I hope that assisting the poor in fundamental ways will top our legislative agenda when we return. Doing so would be the best tribute to the victims of the recent hurricane disasters to mark the year anniversary of this sad moment in our history.

RECOGNIZING NELL GRISSOM

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I want to share with this Congress the life and work of Nell Grissom at Wesley House in Meridian, Mississippi. She represents the best of Mississippi and demonstrates again and again, the power of faith, hope, and love.

Nell was stricken with polio at the age of twelve and paralyzed from the neck down. Doctors said she would never walk or have children. For years she lived in a full-length steel brace from chin to hip. But she finished high school; she married, and has three children and two grandchildren. Faith, determination, and hard work gave her inner strength to match the steel of those braces. Strength to build, guide, and direct a mission that feeds, clothes, educates, counsels, reforms, and heals: touching over 33,000 people every year.

In the mid-1960's, Wesley House Community Center in Meridian was about to close. Founded in 1904 by a group of churchwomen to bring hope into the lives of women and chil-

dren living in poverty around a cotton mill, for sixty years, they held Bible classes and sewing lessons and distributed food and shoes and Christmas presents to the poor people in that neighborhood. Methodists operated Wesley House in a small frame cottage and staffed it with a missionary deaconess.

By 1967, the church could no longer provide a deaconess and Nell Grissom, who was volunteer leader of the Youth Fellowship at Central Methodist Church, was asked to help keep the doors open until a qualified mission worker could be found. Now forty years later it is obvious to all that Nell Grissom was the mission worker they needed.

Wesley House currently serves as the central hub for the regions Toys-for-Tots drive at Christmas. Nell Grissom has also turned Wesley House into a crisis center for local, regional, and state disasters. This past year Wesley House was instrumental in distributing aid to Hurricane Katrina victims.

Years of service to thousands of people trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty, neglect, abuse, and crime, led Nell to open East Central Mississippi's first Sexual Assault Crisis Center in 1990. Almost overwhelmed by the response of hundreds of victims of sexual assault and abuse, Nell worked tirelessly. Counselors were employed and a volunteer crisis line response team was set up to counsel with victims at hospital emergency rooms and law enforcement facilities on a twenty-four hour basis. Nell's efforts have expanded the Sexual Assault Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy Center at Wesley House to include a traveling counselor serving victims in five counties and abuse prevention programs in the public schools. Moving beyond direct services to victims of sexual assault and abuse, Nell Grissom expanded the Wesley House victims rights programs to include services to families of victims of homicide and other crimes.

For over forty years now, Nell Grissom has led countless volunteers to build an agency that gives victims productive futures. Helping victims of poverty and neglect before they become victims of crime is a major focus of Nell Grissom's life. Every day she and her co-workers are salvaging lives from the mean streets, instilling the virtues of work, faith, and morality in those most vulnerable of our citizens. Nell retires in August and ends this chapter in Wesley House's history, but she does so with sadness and with joy. Sadness that she will not be guiding the great services that Wesley House provides, and joy because she knows that God has used her to touch the lives of countless people.

Mr. Speaker, Nell Grissom could have rested on her laurels and retired years ago, yet she has kept working for over forty years as she still works late into the evening at Wesley House helping just one more victim with one more problem. The impact of Nell Grissom's service is reflected in the countless people from all walks of life who can testify about the healing Nell Grissom has brought to their lives and their families. She has made her community, her state, and her country a better place through her efforts and I am proud to call her a daughter of Mississippi.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF KENHORST

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Borough of Kenhorst in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The residents of Cumru Township, upset with what they described as an exorbitant streetlight tax, a lack of fire and police protection, and a lack of street improvement, decided to secede from the Township to create their own municipality, thereby resulting in the establishment of the Borough of Kenhorst nearly 75 years ago.

Its name is of most interesting origins. Along New Holland Road to the south of the proposed borough was a large estate owned by the Horst family. Along Lancaster Avenue was a large farm operated by the Kendall family, also known as Kendall Park. Consequently, the founders decided to combine both names and Kenhorst Borough was thereby incorporated on August 25, 1931.

The Borough remains largely residential, but has recently seen expansion along the two main thoroughways—New Holland Road and Lancaster Avenue—because of the community's outstanding beauty and quality of life. Today, the Borough is considered one of the premier communities in Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Borough of Kenhorst on its 75th anniversary and recognizing the service of a multitude of citizens who worked tirelessly to establish, promote, and grow the Borough to become the exemplary community it is today.

IN TRIBUTE TO CORA WALKER: LAWYER WHO BROKE RACIAL GROUND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cora Walker, a just woman whose sincere determination and resolve not only helped change the way law became practiced in New York but also helped diversify its practitioners. Ms. Cora Walker who is recognized as being one of the first black women to practice law in the state of New York, succumbed to cancer at her Manhattan home on July 20, 2006. As a living example of an individual who defied the odds, Ms. Walker walked the path less traveled, opening it up for many others to follow.

Born in Charlotte in 1922, to William and Benetta Jones Walker, Ms. Walker was one of 9 children. Ms. Walker's family, at that time like most Southern families, wanted a life beyond the laws of segregation and Jim Crow. Their search for the American dream carried them to the Bronx. The new life in New York, however, brought unexpected changes, the biggest one being the sudden divorce of her parents. The separation of her parents, created a financial burden for the entire family

leaving her mother and her siblings dependent on public assistance. Although this incident proved to be tragic, just like the saying goes, "only the most beautiful flowers bloom in adversity," Ms. Walker emerged from this hardship as the main provider and supporter of the family, eventually getting her family off of welfare.

Ms. Walker earned her bachelors degree and law degree in a special 6-year program in which students earned both a bachelors and law degree. She is recognized as being the first African-American woman to graduate from the St. John's University School of Law in 1946. Recognizing the disparity between the number of black and white lawyers, Ms. Walker spent much of her career working for the National Bar Association, the organization of Black lawyers formed to support the advancement of Blacks in the progression and helped found the Associations Counsel Conference, an annual meeting that helped black lawyers cultivate relationships with corporate clients. It is through her work within this organization and others that gave her the skills to become the first woman to serve as president of the Harlem Lawyers Association.

Although she was admitted to the Bar in 1947, the color of her skin still proved to be the only measure being used to judge her capabilities and worth. A woman who defied so many odds, who found the self-will within, to do the unthinkable, whose courage should have been commended, was still black. Sadly, the only position offered to her was the position to be the firms' secretary. Unwilling to write the story of a woman who came, fought the great battle and lost, she decided to re-write history with her own thoughts utilizing her own gifts.

Her efforts culminated in the establishment of her own firm. Although she ran unsuccessfully for the New York Senate in 1958 and 1964, she was recognized at that time as being one of the most powerful leaders in Harlem. Her legacy rings true even today. Not only does the African American community mourn her loss, but all the lives she touched by being a symbol for justice everywhere as well feel her loss.

I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the obituary published in the New York Times on July 24, 2006. She has truly left her mark on our society and she will always be remembered for that. As the percentages of African American lawyers continue to increase across the country, we must acknowledge the pioneers whose contributions to justice and equality made the opportunities we have today a reality.

[From the New York Times, July 20, 2006]
CORA WALKER, 84, DIES; LAWYER WHO BROKE
RACIAL GROUND
(By Margalit Fox)

Cora T. Walker, a prominent New York lawyer who nearly 60 years ago became one of the first black women to practice law in the state, died last Thursday at her home in Manhattan. She was 84.

The cause was cancer, said her son Lawrence R. Bailey Jr., a lawyer, who practiced with his mother for many years.

For decades, Ms. Walker ran a private practice in Harlem, first on 125th Street and later from a restored brownstone at 270 Lenox Avenue. From 1976 until her retirement in 1999, she was the senior partner in Walker & Bailey, one of the city's few black law firms, which she established with her son.

The firm's practice eventually included corporate clients like Conrail, the Ford Motor Company, Texas Instruments and Kentucky Fried Chicken. But Ms. Walker continued drawing up wills and preparing personal-injury claims for the men and women she described as the "plain, ordinary, not elegant people" of her Harlem community.

Active in Republican politics, Ms. Walker ran unsuccessfully for the New York State Senate in 1958 and 1964. In 1970, The New York Times included her—the only woman—on a list of the most powerful leaders in Harlem.

Cora Thomasina Walker was born on June 20, 1922, in Charlotte, N.C., one of nine children of William and Benetta Jones Walker. The family moved to the Bronx when she was a child. When she was an adolescent, her parents separated, leaving her, her mother and her siblings dependent on public assistance.

After graduating from James Monroe High School in the Bronx, Ms. Walker promptly informed the Welfare Department that their help was no longer required: she would support the family. She took a night job as a teletype operator with Western Union and also sold Christmas cards.

At the same time, Ms. Walker was enrolled at St. John's University, then in Brooklyn, in a special six-year program in which students earned both a bachelor's degree and a law degree. She received a bachelor's degree in accounting from St. John's in 1945 and a law degree the next year.

For much of her career, Ms. Walker was active in the National Bar Association, a historically black organization. She helped found the association's Corporate Counsel Conference, an annual meeting sponsored by its commercial law section. Begun in 1988, the conference helps black lawyers cultivate relationships with corporate clients.

In the 1960s, Ms. Walker became the first woman to serve as president of the Harlem Lawyers Association.

Ms. Walker's marriage, to Lawrence R. Bailey Sr., a lawyer, ended in divorce. In addition to her son Lawrence Jr., of the Bronx, she is survived by another son, Bruce E. Bailey, a physician, of Norwich, Conn.; a sister, Danetta Black, formerly of White Plains; and three grandchildren.

In 1947, when Ms. Walker was admitted to the New York bar, she found the doors of the city's law firms tightly shut. (One firm rented and offered her a position—as a secretary.) So she struck out on her own.

Her first client was an undertaker, for whom she did collections. Before long, by dint of reading self-improvement books, Ms. Walker had learned to "join everything, give everybody a card, join a political club," as she told The New York Times in 1989.

In 1999, the New York County Lawyers' Association installed a plaque outside the Lenox Avenue brownstone where Ms. Walker had her office, commemorating her half-century in the law. The building has since been sold, her son said, and the plaque is now gone.

KC-135 REPLACEMENT PROGRAM TECHNOLOGY

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, it is more important than ever that our military have the best technologies available in their weapon systems and equipment. The tremendous

strides that have been made in the area of technology have allowed us to do more with less. With a smaller force, it becomes imperative to provide the best technology and the best capabilities to our warfighters.

Our front line systems require cutting edge technologies to preserve the maximum advantage over our adversaries. It is important that we remain mindful of this as we look to the KC-135 Tanker replacement aircraft the Air Force is scheduled to purchase. We would be ill advised to disregard the technologies available in the aircraft being offered, as this aircraft will be in our inventory for decades.

This KC-X competition involves an older aircraft and a newer one. Old technology built today is still old, and offers little in the competitive environment. Retrofitting add-on technologies into older aircrafts' cockpits and elsewhere are costly modifications that offer only a partial solution to acquiring the best available aircraft.

Instead, the Air Force should consider the value of buying the latest, proven generation of commercial aircraft with modern technology already integrated into the platform. In closing, I believe we must procure the most advanced technology available for this aircraft to both accomplish the mission and to ensure the highest level of performance over its service life. The Air Force has a clear opportunity to procure the most advanced aircraft for the KC-X and our warfighters deserve no less.

CELEBRATING THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANKLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Franklin Special School District. For a century this district has served as a shining example of quality in public school education.

FSSD is recognized within the State of Tennessee and nationally for excellence. It has received straight A's in the 2005 Tennessee State Report Card which is based on student achievement and academic gains. The faculty and staff have demonstrated incredible dedication to the mission of educating students. That's something we all ought to applaud.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the parents and students of the FSSD. I also ask my colleagues to join me in sending a special thanks to Dr. David Snowden, Director of Schools and the Franklin Special School District teachers and staff for educating the leaders of tomorrow. We wish them all the best in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL RICK RIERA, "SEEKER AND DEFENDER OF FREEDOM"

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great soldier and a great